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APPROVAL

☒ INFORMATION

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ACTION

☐ DIRECT REPLY

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COMMENT

☐ PREPARATION OF REPLY

☐ DISPATCH

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RECOMMENDATION

☐ FILE

REMARKS:

(And any action
needed.)

Run

Mr Chubb, 1001 1/2 St. N. Wash. D.C.
Infor me d of above instructions
see L.C.I.

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NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL
WASHINGTON

May 26, 1949

Executive Registry

0-4202

MEMORANDUM FOR THE COORDINATOR, NSC STAFF

SUBJECT: Functions of the NSC Staff

RAW

The National Security Council at its first meeting approved an initial study assignment to the NSC Staff based upon Section 101(b) (1) of the National Security Act of 1947. This assignment assumed that, while reports on policies in current matters of common interest would normally be referred to the Council by its members or by other Departments and Agencies of the Government, the NSC Staff should be responsible for preparing, by means of continuing long-range study, assessments and appraisals on policy matters on which it is anticipated that the Council would in the future be called upon to advise the President.

To date, the NSC Staff has of necessity devoted its efforts largely to the preparation of policy reports on various countries, areas or subjects which are of current and continuing concern. Initial coverage of this type has been in large measure accomplished, and a reorientation of the Staff's work is therefore in order.

Accordingly, it is desired that the NSC Staff devote itself henceforth primarily to the performance of the following functions, recognizing that current policy problems may be interjected as the need arises:

a. Conduct a periodic review of all current policies relating to the national security, with the view to proposing appropriate amendments, deletions, additions, or supplements thereto.

b. Undertake a program of studies for the information of the Council, assessing and appraising the implications for our security and the alternate courses of action open to us in those matters of major policy on which it is anticipated that the United States will be called upon to act. It is not intended that these studies should arrive at statements of policy, but rather that each should furnish a comprehensive and well-balanced analysis as a basis for the preparation by the appropriate Executive Department or Agency of a proposed policy statement for consideration by the NSC.

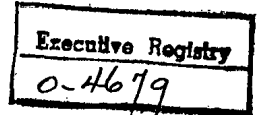
cc: NSC Consultants
NSC Staff Members

SIDNEY W. SOUERS
Executive Secretary

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NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL
WASHINGTON



May 25, 1949

MEMORANDUM FOR THE NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

SUBJECT: Implementation of NSC Papers

REFERENCE: NSC Action No. 123

The enclosed memorandum by the Acting Secretary of State on the subject is submitted herewith for consideration by the National Security Council of the amendment to the agreed procedure for implementing NSC papers, as proposed in the last paragraph thereof.

It is requested that Council members indicate their action with respect to the enclosure by completing and returning the attached memorandum form.

SIDNEY W. SOUERS
Executive Secretary

(Memorandum form not attached)

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THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE
WASHINGTON

May 24, 1949

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. SIDNEY W. SOUERS,
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY, NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

Subject: Implementation of NSC
Papers (NSC Action No.
123).

In implementing NSC papers pursuant to the procedure contained in NSC Action No. 123, it is anticipated that occasions may develop in which the coordinating Agency and a participating Department or Agency may differ as to the interpretation of the approved policy or as to the method of its implementation. In such an event it is believed that there should be an agreed procedure which is understood and accepted by all Departments or Agencies concerned.

In considering such a procedure, it is assumed that the coordinating Agency and the other Department or Agency have attempted by all possible means to reconcile their differences without success.

In this event it is believed that the National Security Council is not the appropriate forum in which to reconcile the divergent views for the following reasons:

a. Agreement in the Council is unlikely since two of its members will already have found it impossible to agree.

b. The only members of the Council who would be concerned with the matter in hand would be the two who hold different views.

c. The function of the Council is to advise the President with respect to national security policies, but not with respect to means or methods by which such policies are implemented.

The proper procedure is believed to be the submission, in writing, to the President for his decision of the divergent views of the two Departments or Agencies concerned. In order that there may be an established channel through which such views reach the President, it is suggested that they be submitted through the Executive Secretary, National Security Council.

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It is therefore recommended that the following paragraph be added to the Procedure for the Implementation of NSC Papers, as approved by NSC Action No. 123:

- "5. In the event that the coordinating Agency and a participating Department or Agency differ as to the interpretation of the paper or as to methods of implementation, the divergent views will be submitted in writing to the President for his decision, through the Executive Secretary."

/s/ James E. Webb

Acting Secretary

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